CLAIMS

1.   A method operative in a content delivery network (CDN) wherein participating content providers identify content to be served from a set of CDN content servers in response to requests that are resolved through a request routing mechanism,

5   comprising:

associating a content provider domain with a domain of an origin server at which the content provider hosts a default markup language file;

associating the content provider domain with a CDNSP-specific domain;

responsive to an end-user request directed to the content provider domain, using

10   the CDNSP-specific domain to cue the request routing mechanism to identify a CDN content server;

determining whether a given version of the default markup language file exists on the identified CDN content server; and

if the given version of the default markup language file exists on the identified

15   CDN content server, serving the default markup language file to the end user; and

if the given version of the default markup language file does not exist on the identified CDN content server, directing a request for the default markup language file to the origin server.

20   2.   The method as described in Claim 1 further including the step of receiving the default markup language file at the CDN content server if the version of the default markup language file does not exist on the identified CDN content server.

3.   The method as described in Claim 2 further including the step of caching

25   the default markup language file at the CDN content server.

4.   The method as described in Claim 3 further including the step of serving the default markup language file back to the end-user.

30   5.   The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the content provider domain is associated with a CDNSP-specific domain by DNS entry aliasing.

6.   The method as described in Claim 5 wherein the DNS entry aliasing is a CNAME entry in a name server that is authoritative for the content provider domain.

5   7.   The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the markup language file is HTML.

8. A method for serving HTML in a content delivery network wherein a content provider domain is associated with an origin server at which a default HTML file is hosted, comprising:

aliasing the content provider domain to a CDN domain;

5   in response to a request directed to the content provider domain, using the CDN domain to cue a DNS request routing mechanism;

using the DNS request routing mechanism to identify a content server; and

at the content server, building an index that includes information about the origin server to enable the content server to selectively retrieve the default HTML file as

10   needed.

9. The method as described in Claim 8 further including the step of serving the default HTML file from the origin server to the CDN content server.

15   10. The method as described in Claim 9 wherein the default HTML file is served from the origin server to the CDN content server in a compressed form.

11. The method as described in Claim 9 further including the step of caching the default HTML file at the CDN content server.

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12. The method as described in Claim 11 further including the step of serving the default HTML file from the CDN content server to a requesting end user.

13. The method as described in Claim 12 including the step of logging data

25   about the HTML file served from the CDN content server to the requesting end user.

14. The method as described in Claim 12 wherein the default HTML file is served from the CDN content server to the requesting end user in a compressed form.

30   15. The method as described in Claim 8 wherein the content provider domain is aliased to the CDN domain by modifying a content provider domain name server entry.